

Julie Becker, Editor

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Send materials to Julie Becker at
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DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION: A TEAM OF DEDICATED, COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS

by Julie Becker



Imagine this scenario: It's Friday afternoon. You're about to leave the office for the weekend, when you get an urgent phone call that simply can't be ignored.

For Public Health Nurse Communicable Disease Coordinators **Jill LeStarge** and **Sandy Coffaro**, that's how a measles outbreak began the spring of 2008. What ensued was a series of hurried phone calls as they tried to quickly determine where the infected child lived and who else that child may have come into contact with, and then track down the health officers of the impacted communities.

The pair recently recounted the situation as they explained how they work together in the Disease Control & Prevention unit – along with their supervisor, Epidemiologist **Angela Hagy**, nurses **Desiree Rembert**, **Carol Johnsen** and **Melissa Mason**, and Office Assistant **Robert Dunn** – from the moment they learn of an outbreak, until the case is closed.

Together they serve as the liaison between staff in their unit – which handles most reportable diseases – and other areas of the MHD, other local health departments, state epidemiologists and infection control departments, acting to coordinate re-

sources and ensure efficient case management and information flow throughout disease investigations.

"Sandy and Jill serve as an important link between healthcare providers, laboratories, and other public health officials and the nurses working on direct case management," Angela Hagy said. "One of the key components of Sandy and Jill's job is to look over what seemingly is unrelated bits of information to identify any possible similarities in order to identify a potential outbreak."

By Saturday Sandy and Jill had found that the infected child attended daycare and church outside the child's own community. Health officers in those communities were able to inform the groups involved before Sunday, thereby preventing exposure.

The next week, the unit received and followed up on multiple reports of possible measles cases, in addition to conducting contact follow-up to those directly linked to the infected child. Despite the highly infectious nature of measles, Milwaukee County ultimately had only a handful of confirmed cases during that time – something Sandy attributes to the quick response of all involved.

DCP typically deals with about 600 cases per year. In years of an outbreak, that number can be more than 10 times greater.

That incident is just one of several outbreaks the unit has handled since Sandy

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COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS



Bevan K. Baker, FACHE

New Fellows

As the City of Milwaukee Health Department's busy summer season continues, our staff is balancing a multitude of tasks, from planning for Milwaukee Child Health Week and upcoming health fairs to monitoring the waters of Milwaukee's beaches and informing residents of ways to safely beat the heat. In the midst of all this, we recently welcomed two new Fellows from the Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship Program. **Tyler Weber**, a University of Minnesota graduate, and **Rashonda Jones**, a University of Wisconsin-Madison alumna, began their two-year placements with MHD on July 5th.

Health Training and Public Service

Through the Fellowship, recent master's level public health graduates continue their professional public health training while providing community service in a public health organization. Tyler and Rashonda will be placed at MHD half-time during their first year, gaining experience in the areas of Family & Community Health; Communicable Diseases; Environmental Health / Emergency Preparedness; Public Health Administration; Communications; and Violence Prevention. They also will assist the Center for Resilient Cities and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee.

The placement of Fellows at community-based, non-profit, governmental and health service organizations throughout the state is a competitive process, and we are fortunate to have been selected for this opportunity. In addition to existing

training and educational partnerships with UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison and other academic and practice organizations, Tyler and Rashonda's placement here is a key component of my vision for MHD to be one of the premier academic health departments in the nation. Partnering with these institutions not only provides Fellows and students with valuable hands-on experience, but also allows the MHD to benefit from the exchange of resources, collaborative projects and the unique and innovative ideas offered by those placed here, which in turn enables us to best meet the needs of the community we serve.

New UWM MPH Degree

With the UW-Milwaukee School of Public Health now accepting applications for its new Master of Public Health degree, the MHD is poised to collaborate even more extensively with the future students in that program, bringing us one step closer to the goal of becoming an academic health department. As we welcome our newest Fellows and prepare for those who will join us in the future, I ask for your continued support in the teaching and mentorship of these bright young professionals.

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

DCP, *continued from page 1*

and Jill began working together in December of 2005. When not in "outbreak mode," Disease Control & Prevention typically deals with about 600 cases per year. In years of an outbreak, they have handled a case load more than 10 times greater, as with the H1N1 outbreak of 2009.

While such efforts involve the cooperation of many and the pair could not do it alone, their close working relationship definitely streamlines the process.

"It really does help to work closely with someone," Sandy said. "It makes the job a lot easier."



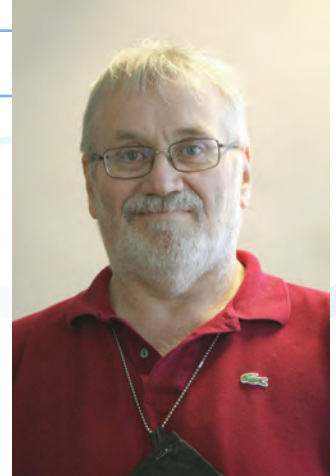
August 12-19, 2011

**Child Health Week
and the
Back-to-School
Health Fairs
are nearly upon us!**

Find out more on page 5.



ROBERT DUNN



Just for Fun

Find the 25 words listed below.
Answers on back page.

RECREATION

B A S K E T B A L L B O
W I L P I G N I H S I F
B O C C I E N G L A N E
E S C Y A N M B R I I G
D P G M C K N E A L N V
S E O A A L G I N I U E
M K I R M L I N N N W A
U K A A P E E N I G Q T
W T W T I M U S G X E H
E C O H I R U K N T O N
I G S O I N A J H C O B
G N N N Z Y G E K T A E
H I G I A P R E N S G C
T E N K O B Y I E D C D
S O I E A I M B I A H R
R N Y L E D A R L R E E
G A L V A L B A N T S T
O C F B L A C R O S S E

BADMINTON	CHESS	MARATHON
BASEBALL	DARTS	RUNNING
BASKETBALL	FISHING	SAILING
BICYCLING	FLYING	SKATING
BOCCIE	HOCKEY	SPINNING
BOXING	JUMP ROPE	TETHERBALL
BRIDGE	KARATE	WEIGHTS
CAMP	KAYAKING	
CANOEING	LACROSSE	

If there is a person you would like to see featured in the Employee Highlight, please contact:

Julie Becker
jnbecke@milwaukee.gov
or call x3548.

Perhaps you've seen Robert Dunn with headphones affixed to his ears while he works at his computer in Communicable Diseases, where he serves as an Office Assistant III. Would you be surprised to learn that there's a good chance he's listening to high-energy dance music? In fact, the self-proclaimed extrovert keeps a selection in his computer "favorites" and listens as a trick to keep him energized throughout his work day, which primarily involves disease reporting through maintenance of SurVNet, a county-wide communicable disease surveillance system. Robert took time out of his busy schedule to tell us more about himself.

Do you have hidden talents?

Cooking, stamp collecting, music collecting, movie and TV show collecting.

What would you do if you didn't have to work?

Travel.

What has been your most memorable vacation?

New York City in 1981, over New Year's for 10 days.

If you were assigned to a desert island for a year and could take one song and one kind of snack, what would you take?

"Come to Me" by France Joli and a chocolate caramel Magnum ice cream bar.

Do you play a musical instrument?

Tuba.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, a cat named Carmen Miranda.

Who is the person you admire the most?

Barack Obama.

If you could change one thing about Milwaukee, what would it be?

To have zero poverty.

LABORATORIES AT THE CROSSROADS

by Sanjib Bhattacharyya, PhD, and Steve Gradus, PhD, D(ABMM)



Dr. Bhattacharyya Dr. Gradus

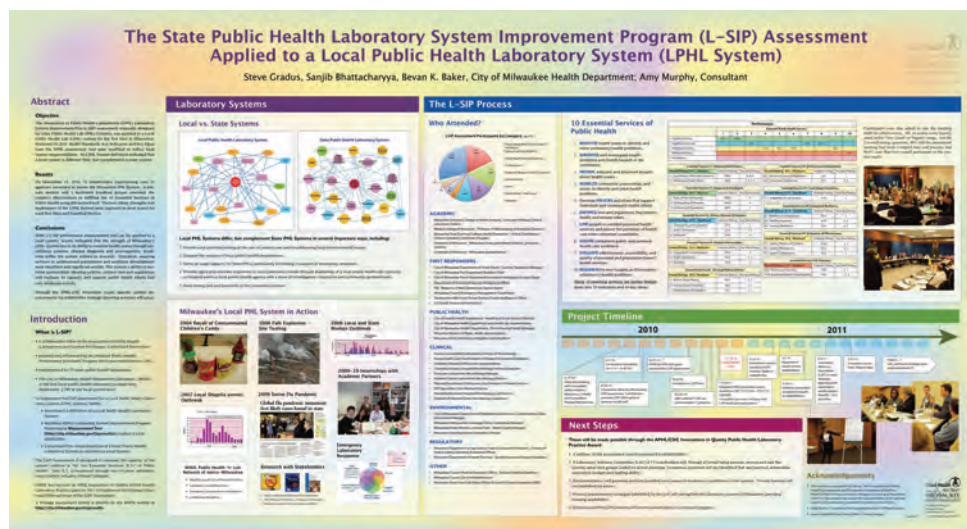
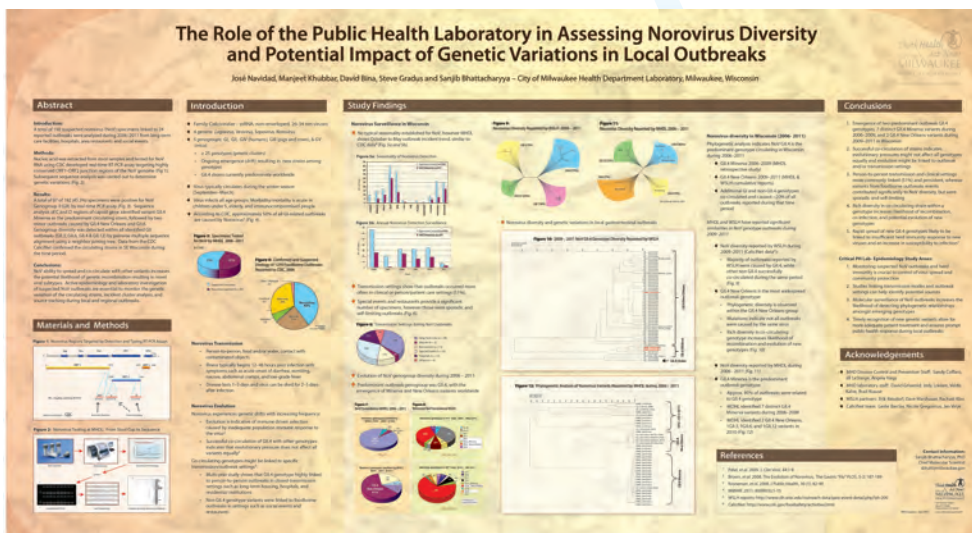
Sanjib Bhattacharyya and **Steve Gradus** attended the 2011 APHL Annual Meeting June 5-8 in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme, “Laboratories at the Crossroads,” reflected the latest updates in policy and challenges faced by public health laboratories (PHL) confronting such real-life threats as natural disasters, emerging diseases, and especially a weakened economy and shrinking workforce.

Dr. Victor Waddell, APHL President, led the kick-off plenary session (“Are New Technologies Improving Public Health?”), which featured CDC speakers on the increasing trend of ‘Culture Independent Assays’ in PHLs and implications of replacing gold standard methods.

One MHD Laboratory poster, presented by Dr. Bhattacharyya, **“The Role of the Public Health Laboratory in Assessing Norovirus Diversity and Potential Impact of Genetic Variations in Local Outbreaks,”** described a retrospective analysis of Norovirus-associated gastrointestinal outbreaks in Milwaukee during 2005-11.

The study exhibited how genetic recombination amongst co-circulating strains may enable emergence of new viral subtypes.

“The State Public Health Laboratory System Improvement Program Assessment Applied to a Local PHL System,” a second poster, captured the strengths, weaknesses and initiatives toward local laboratory system improvements, innovations and stakeholder partnerships. A panel discussion by three awardees of APHL’s Innovation Grants included Dr. Gradus presenting MHD’s work on the first local lab use of the Laboratory System Improvement Program (LSIP).



Selected topics of interest included: the concepts of PHL capacity building; impacts of healthcare reform; leadership and workforce development; accreditation; PH Systems and Services Research; and the concept of “Democracy and Public Health.” Dr. Alexander Garza, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Department of Homeland Security, applauded collaboration between PHL and DHS during the closing session.



by Gwen Altheimer

Child Health Week 2011 is quickly approaching. Last year we were able to give out information, health services and book bags to nearly 5,000 children. We held two Back-to-School Health Fairs at South Division High School and North Division Campus. We also had two mini fairs at Pick 'n Save Midtown on the north side and Pick 'n Save Clark Square on the south side.

This year we will again have **two Back-to-School Health Fairs** at South Division on Friday, August 12 and North Division on Friday, August 19. But this year we are also having **three mini fairs**. The first mini fair will be held at the YMCA located at 1350 W. North Ave. on Tuesday, August 16. The second one will be at the YMCA at 9050 N. 91st St. on Wednesday, August 17. The third mini fair will be on Thursday, August 18 at the Clark Square Pick 'n Save located at 1818 W. National Ave.

This year we will again offer immunizations, lead testing, dental varnishes, vision screening, health checks and other services. There will be booths available for MHD programs to share information. Please contact **Gwen Altheimer** at galth@milwaukee.gov or (414) 286-6629 if you are interested in having a booth or if you know of an agency that would like a booth. Please consider volunteering your help with any of the Child Health Week activities.

MHD STAFF HONORED

This spring, the Executive Leadership Team began recognizing employee anniversaries. MHD employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service anniversaries are formally recognized and presented with a framed Certificate of Appreciation—signed by Mayor Barrett and Commissioner Baker—indicating their years of service. In addition, ELT meetings now rotate between various worksites to honor those employees outside of ZMB. Here are the names of the most recently honored employees:

	<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Kristin Kroll	07/17/06	5
Daphne Prater	06/16/06	5
Vanessa Vann	06/16/06	5
Songlor Xiong	06/16/06	5



Songlor Xiong and Kristin Kroll with Commissioner Baker.

Daphne Prater and Vanessa Vann with Commissioner Baker.



THE *Healthy* TIMES KUDOS



KUDOS to **Matanya Boyd**, WIC OA III, from Nancy Castro for receiving a Bachelor's degree from Ottawa University in Communications with a concentration in Human Services.

KUDOS to **Julie Driscoll** and **Leah Jepson** from Anna Benton for doing the heavy lifting to get the Empowering Families of Milwaukee fully funded for another five years! Julie and Leah wrote a competitive grant to the state, and *it received the highest score of any grant statewide*. Thanks to their excellent proposal, and the hard work and great outcomes of the EFM team, the program will continue to serve some of Milwaukee's most at-risk families.

KUDOS from Darryl Davidson to **Shirley Senaya**, all **managers, staff**, and **interns** who helped prepare and deliver the Keenan Health Center Men's Health event on June 21st. It couldn't have happened without your support.

KUDOS from Gwen Alzheimer to CHAP Staff – **Alanda Bradley, Christine Brandt, Nora Deberry Johnson, Nia Hardison, Lorena Cornejo Rodriguez, Ramona Schwan** and **Rodney Wilson** – for all the hundreds of people they assist with BadgerCare and Food Share every month.

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Linda Laatsch, of Marquette University's Clinical Laboratory Sciences program, was given the Wisconsin Public Health Association's (WPHA) Award for Distinguished Service to Public Health this past May. Since 2002, Dr. Laatsch has developed and taught a course for undergraduates at Marquette University in the College of Health Sciences whose focus is increasing awareness and knowledge of public health and public health careers among the students in that college. The course, "Public Health" is an elective for Biomedical Science majors. It is taught in collaboration with staff from the MHD and others in the public health community in Milwaukee. This course is a model for attracting new attention to the role of public health and the value of a public health career.

Dr. Laatsch has provided an example to others for translating her vision into action and engaging the public health community in providing a collaborative approach to engaging our students in the study and practice of public health.

Dr. Laatsch was nominated for this award by MHD Laboratory Director **Dr. Steve Gradus**.



Dr. Laatsch and Dr. Gradus

IT UPDATE *by Jeff Hussinger*



The upgrade of MHD desktop computers to Windows 7 and Office 2010 is rapidly approaching the finish line. All of the PCs at both ZMB and Northwest Health Center are now complete. Southside Health Center is about three-quarters complete and Keenan Health Center is two-thirds complete. With luck and the outstanding efforts of the three Program Assistants, **Tracy Wetzels, Debbie Salmon** and **Regina Jagers**, all of the desktop computers at all of the health centers will be upgraded by the end of August.

Since they were so popular downtown in the Training Room, the Microsoft Office 2010 Lunch & Learn sessions have gone

on the road and will be coming to a health center near you. A training session on Word 2010 already was held at SSHC on July 12. Other upcoming Lunch & Learn sessions at SSHC will include an Outlook 2010 session on Aug. 4 and an Excel 2010 session on Aug. 9. Look for upcoming announcements regarding dates and times for Lunch & Learn sessions at KHC and NWHC, to be held during August and September. These informative and interactive sessions are moderated by a couple of MHD's "Power Users," Jim Patzer and Laura Vanderbilt, and will cover many of the new features in the 2010 versions of the Microsoft Office suite. No advance registration is required. Just tell your program manager which session(s) you'd like to attend and maybe that Lunch & Learn will be held in your health center!



MHD Walking for Health: Move More, Eat Better (Walking Support Group); MAHEC Youth Health Service Corps; Wells Fargo African American Network



Commissioner Baker and fellow walkers



Biggest Loser participant Khayyana Suggs, and contest winner Bill Borzon



*Keenan
Salad Share*

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Jen Damon, WC AHEC Intern

The Wellness Committee and Health Centers participated in a number of activities this spring, including the American Cancer Society Making Strides Walk, the African American Walk for Quality Health, Salad Shares, and continuing the Biggest Loser contests.

MAKING STRIDES

To begin the 2011 walking season, MHD participated in two walks – the American Cancer Society (ACS) Making Strides Walk and the African American Walk for Quality Health. At the May 7th ACS Walk, our MHD team was led by team captain **Liz Rodriguez** and had 14 walkers. The team raised \$1,075.00 to support cancer prevention efforts, surpassing last year's total!

AFRICAN AMERICAN WALK FOR QUALITY HEALTH

The African American Walk for Quality Health was also a success this year. Led by our own Commissioner of Health, **Bevan K. Baker**, five MHD team members walked to support the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Inc. and the Wisconsin African American Eliminating Health Disparities Institute. The goal of these organizations is to improve the overall health of African Americans in the state of Wisconsin and to ensure holistic healthcare for everyone. In addition to our five walkers, the combined forces of Walking for Health (a community walking support group led by Yvonne Greer), Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) and Wells Fargo African American Network added 35 more walkers for a combined total of 40. Thanks for the great support!

SALAD SHARES

Another popular activity at many of the Health Centers is the Salad Share. Salad Shares are office potlucks in which people bring healthy food to share. Some centers had weekly Salad Shares to help promote healthy eating for their Biggest Loser participants. The Salad Shares were so popular that more will be scheduled in the coming months, so watch the calendar!

BIGGEST LOSER

The Biggest Loser contest has also played a significant role at the MHD centers and has promoted hundreds of pounds of weight loss. It has become an ongoing tradition, particularly at the Keenan Health Center. Keenan is now in its fourth cycle, and the office is looking and feeling better than ever!

UPCOMING WELLNESS EVENTS

- August 6 - Walk to Protect, Promote, and Support Breastfeeding
- September - Lunch & Learn (TBA)
- October 1 - AIDS Walk
- October 16 - American Heart Walk

RETIREMENTS

Thank you to all who have devoted their careers to educating, empowering and improving the health of Milwaukee's citizens. Your many years of service are deeply appreciated.

Tracy Ingram	Custodial Worker II, Health Operations
Wanda Griffin	Laboratory Assistant II
Rhonda Hoernke	PHN, Family & Community Health
Ron LaPorte	Program Assistant I, Lab

NEW STAFF/REINSTATEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS

Paulina De Haan	Mayors Against Illegal Guns	ZMB
Nadia Greenhill	PHN - EFM	SSHC
Felicia Hayden	Health Project Coordinator - EFM	SSHC
Julie Katrichis	PHN - TBCC	KHC
Pa Lou Vang	PHN - EFM	SSHC

PROMOTIONS

A. Thomas Brandt	to Environmental Hygienist - HEH	ZMB
Anonio Kimber	to Inventory Control Asst. II	NWHC
Sonja Miller	to Environmental Specialist Supv.	ZMB

TRANSFERS

Chantil Wilder	Custodial Worker II	B&G
Janet Esch	PHN - STD Surveillance & Treatment	KHC
Timothy Maher	PHN - STD Surveillance & Treatment	KHC

RESIGNATIONS

We also bid farewell to the following staff members and wish them well in their new endeavors:

Charlie Lauters	EHS Specialist I
Kawanza Newson	Health Communications Officer
Sharon Conley	Dietetic Technician, FCH
Audrey Skwierawski	Injury and Violence Prevention Program Coordinator

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BADMINTON	CHESS	MARATHON
BASEBALL	DARTS	RUNNING
BASKETBALL	FISHING	SAILING
BICYCLING	FLYING	SKATING
BOCCIE	HOCKEY	SPINNING
BOXING	JUMP ROPE	TETHERBALL
BRIDGE	KARATE	WEIGHTS
CAMP	KAYAKING	
CANOEING	LACROSSE	



Mayor Tom Barrett

Think Health
CITY OF *Act Now!*
MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Tom Barrett, Mayor
Bevan K. Baker,
Commissioner of Health
www.milwaukee.gov/health

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